

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A sealant tool for use in applying a sealant, comprising:
a handle having a substantially planar configuration; and
an elongated applicator portion being fixed at one end to the handle and transitioning linearly outward from the handle along a longitudinal axis of the handle and the applicator portion, and further transitioning towards a single free end tip having a substantially spline radius, and wherein a thickness of the applicator portion decreases from the longitudinal axis towards lateral edges of the applicator portion, and the external surface exterior shape of the applicator portion is symmetrically convex about the longitudinal axis with external angles formed by adjacent external surfaces of the applicator portion being less than or equal to 270 degrees, and the lateral edges each comprise a surface that is perpendicular to a plane encompassing the longitudinal axis and the substantially spline radius.

2. (Previously Presented) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein the handle and the applicator portion are manufactured using substantially a same non-marking material.

3. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein the handle and the applicator portion are integrated.

4. (Previously Presented) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein the thickness of the applicator portion further decreases along the longitudinal axis towards the free end tip.

5. (Previously Presented) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein the non-marking material further comprises at least one of polyurethane, polypropylene, nylon, and acetal.

6. (Currently Amended) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein the thickness of the applicator portion is maximum along the longitudinal axis with respect to the lateral edges of the applicator portion and wherein a thickness of the applicator portion decreases linearly along the longitudinal axis from the handle to the free end tip.

7. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein the spline radius further comprises a passive shaped curvature.

8. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein the spline radius further comprises an aggressive shaped curvature.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 9, wherein the thickness of the applicator portion is about 0.05 inches at the edge.

11. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 9, wherein the thickness of the applicator portion is about 0.25 inches at the longitudinal axis.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein a length of the handle is shorter than a length of the applicator portion.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) The sealant tool of ~~Claim 14~~ Claim 1, wherein the width of the applicator portion ranges between about 0.73 inches and about 1.52 inches.

16. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein a length and a width of the handle is determined for a comfortable gripping of the sealant tool.

17. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein a surface of the handle further comprises at least one of a smooth finish and an indented finish.

18. (Withdrawn) A method of applying a sealant to a structural joint employing a sealant tool, comprising:

selecting the sealant tool comprising a tip with an aggressive shaped curvature or a tip with passive shaped curvature, based, in part, on an esthetic aspect associated with the structural joint; and

holding the sealant tool at a predetermined angle while applying the sealant, wherein the predetermined angle determines a depth of sealant shape.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 18, wherein the predetermined angle of the sealant tool determines a percentage of contact surface.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 18, wherein the percentage of contact surface controlled by the predetermined angle of the sealant tool varies between about 26% and about 38%.

21. (Currently Amended) A sealant tool for use in applying sealant, comprising:
a handle having a substantially planar configuration; and
an applicator portion being fixed at one end to the handle and transitioning linearly outward from the handle towards a single free tip having a substantially spline radius, and wherein the applicator portion has a thickness that decreases from a maximum thickness along a longitudinal axis of the applicator portion towards the free distal tip and perpendicular to a plane encompassing the longitudinal axis and the substantially spline radius, and the external ~~surface~~ shape of the applicator portion is symmetrically convex about the longitudinal axis with external angles formed by adjacent external surfaces of the applicator portion being less than or equal to 270 degrees, and a lateral edge of the applicator portion that extends along the longitudinal axis and around the single free tip forms a surface that is perpendicular to the plane encompassing the longitudinal axis and the substantially spline radius.

22. (Previously Presented) The sealant tool of Claim 21, wherein the free distal tip of the applicator portion further comprises at least one of a passive shaped curvature and an aggressive shaped curvature.

23. (Previously Presented) The sealant tool of Claim 21, wherein the sealant tool comprises a non-marking means that comprises at least one of polyurethane, polypropylene, nylon, and acetal.